

SENATE RESOLUTION 235

By Stanley

A RESOLUTION to honor Germantown Police Officer Gene Davis Herndon for his singular act of bravery in the line of duty.

WHEREAS, our nation was conceived by individuals who were willing to sacrifice their personal concerns to ensure the public safety and welfare, and the Volunteer State is especially proud to be the home of so many valiant men and women who have performed above and beyond the call of duty in service of public safety; and

WHEREAS, thousands of Tennesseans have continued the time-honored tradition of volunteerism through service in law enforcement, dedicating their time and efforts to aiding those in emergency situations and apprehending those who have broken the law; and

WHEREAS, Officer Gene Davis Herndon is one such public servant who courageously served the Germantown Police Department and the local citizenry by incapacitating a man who had repeatedly fired upon him; and

WHEREAS, on August 16, 2007, Officer Herndon and several other officers were sent to the home of a local physician who had called the police department claiming to have killed his wife; upon arriving, Officer Herndon heard gunfire in the backyard and sought shelter behind a tree where he could observe the subject; and

WHEREAS, once the subject noticed Officer Herndon, he fired ten rounds at him from a Glock semi-automatic pistol, after which Officer Herndon returned fire, struck the subject, and incapacitated him; and

WHEREAS, Officer Davis Herndon's actions saved his life, the lives of his fellow officers, and most likely the life of the shooting suspect's wife, stated Police Chief Richard Hall during a ceremony honoring Officer Herndon; and

WHEREAS, in addition to being awarded the city's first Medal of Valor for his heroic actions, Officer Herndon was also named Police Officer of the Year by the Knights of Columbus on February 9, 2008; and

WHEREAS, these recognitions for heroism and professionalism are especially significant given Davis Herndon's relative lack of experience as a police officer; and

WHEREAS, at twenty seven years old, Officer Herndon had only recently graduated from the Memphis Police Academy and was still three days away from completion of on-the-job training with the Germantown Police Department; he was riding with a field training officer on the day of the incident; and

WHEREAS, Police Officer Davis Herndon has performed his duties as a police officer with the utmost skill, dedication, and professionalism; his service can only be categorized as outstanding, and he deserves proper recognition for his heroism as a public servant; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, that we honor the valiant Germantown Police Officer Gene Davis Herndon for his meritorious service in the face of imminent danger and thank him for his continuing efforts to protect the safety and welfare of the good people of Germantown, Shelby County, and the State of Tennessee.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we congratulate Officer Herndon on receiving Germantown's first Medal of Honor and being named Police Officer of the Year by the Knights of Columbus.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.